# CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.  An apparatus, comprising:

    a data path input unit to receive a packet from a transmitting device for a request transaction that does not expect a completion; and

    a data path output unit to transmit a message to the transmitting device if the request transaction is unsuccessful.

2.  The apparatus of claim 1, the packet including a packet header that includes a requester identification field that identifies the transmitting device.

3.  The apparatus of claim 2, the contents of the requester identification field used to route the message back to the transmitting device.

4.  The apparatus of claim 3, the message including an unsuccessful request error message.

5.  The apparatus of claim 3, the message including an undefined packet error message.

6.  The apparatus of claim 3, the message including a malformed packet error message.

7.  A system, comprising:

a transmitting device to transmit a packet for a request transaction that does not expect a completion; and

a receiving device to receive the packet and to return a message to the transmitting device if the request transaction is unsuccessful.


8.  The system of claim 7, the packet including a packet header that includes a requester identification field that identifies the transmitting device.


9.  The system of claim 8, the contents of the requester identification field used to route the message back to the transmitting device.


10.  The system of claim 9, the message including an unsuccessful request error message.


11.  The system of claim 9, the message including an undefined packet error message.


12.  The system of claim 9, the message including a malformed packet error message.


13.  A method, comprising:

receiving a request packet from a transmitting device;

determining whether an error condition exists; and

if an error condition exists and the request packet indicates that a completion is not expected, delivering an error message to the transmitting device.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising delivering a completion packet with a non-successful completion status to the transmitting device if an error condition exists and the request packet indicates that a completion is expected.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the error message indicates an undefined packet.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the error message indicates a malformed packet.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the error message indicates an unsupported request.